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FOOD FIGHT
LOCAL CHEFS ARE BOILING MAD ABOUT MENU PROPOSAL {page 4}

KITSCH IN SYNC

BLOCKBUSTER ACTOR TAYLOR KITSCH TAKES FAME AS IT COMES {page 12}

LONDON metro®

Weekend, March 2-4, 2012
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Slam. Dunk

▶ Gabe Freeman of the London Lightning goes up for a dunk against Aaron Spears of the Quebec Kebs during a regular-season game on Thursday. London won the game 124 to 107 in front of 3,733 fans. The final game of the Lightning's regular season — against the Summerside Storm — will be played on Sunday at the John Labatt Centre. Tipoff is at 2 p.m. In their first season, the Lightning have locked up first place and will start the playoffs against a team to be determined on March 9.

MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Lightning are bolting to the playoffs

Future council?

◗ New youth council aims to have a role in city politics ◗ Western grad prime mover behind 'experiment' in making a difference

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Imagine: Teens and young adults playing an active role in what happens at city hall.

It's an idea so simple that its brainchild is amazed no one's taken it on.

"Honestly, I'm just so stoked to see what they can do," Matt Ross said about the new London Youth Advisory Council. "A ton of people care."

Ross, 23, stumbled on the idea about eight months ago during a conversation with Mayor Joe Fontana. A lifelong Londoner and a recent Western University grad, Ross was seeking corporate sponsorship for a trip when he tapped into the mayor's network. During the meeting, Ross mentioned "youth engagement" and, from that, the council's roots started taking shape.

Expected to be up and running by mid-March, it will have no ties to city government. The main goal is to further the youth agenda among municipal leaders, Ross said.

"They're going to be weighing in on contentious issues that city council is dealing with already, and they also will be bringing forward their own platform," he said.

Get involved

▶ **Voting for the London Youth** Advisory Council opens at lyac.ca after candidates make speeches during City Symposium at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Wolf Performance Hall. Candidates' platforms and a message from Mayor Joe Fontana are already on the website.

"A youth voice has to be heard because, in the end, they are … the future leaders of London."

Ross has recruited 21 people between the ages of 16 and 23 as council candidates. Each will make a presentation during Tuesday's City Symposium, and online voting will start that night.

Along with the top 13 vote-getters, four young people — one representative each from Fanshawe College, Western, the Catholic School Board and the Thames Valley District School Board — will be appointed.

Anyone of any age is invited to cast an online ballot.

"I feel there's a way to integrate the two," Ross said about youth and older Londoners. "One of my passions is, 'How do you stop all these students from moving?'

"I just love seeing London grow. It has this awesome potential."

1 news

A community centre in N.Y.C. that caters to LGBT seniors is being called the first of its kind in the U.S.
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Right-wing blogger Andrew Breitbart has died. Watch Breitbart lambaste OWS protesters at metronews.ca/video

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Ornge probe

Opposition calls for all-party probe into air-ambulance service
Would be premature: McGuinty

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Deb Mathews

Forming a legislative committee to investigate Ontario's troubled air ambulance service is "premature," Premier Dalton McGuinty said Thursday as opposition calls for their own probe of the scandal grew louder.

The Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats have banded together in rare show of unity to demand an all-party committee, saying they need to get to the bottom of the problems at Ornge.

Ontario Provincial Police are investigating "financial irregularities" at the publicly funded agency, which has been under fire for months over high salaries, service disruptions and questionable business practices.

A committee would have a broader mandate than police and be able to probe lingering issues around quality of care and crew safety, the parties said.

It could also provide a "safe forum" for potential Ornge whistleblowers who are too intimidated to talk publicly for fear they'll lose their jobs or face criminal charges.

"Those stories need to come out, they need to be heard," said NDP health critic France Gelinas.

But McGuinty said the criminal probe and the auditor general's report on Ornge must come first.

Clean up

- Health Minister Deb Matthews insists Ornge is being cleaned up now that she's replaced the CEO and board of directors.
- Opposition parties say the agency is still plagued by staffing issues and service disruptions.

"If at that time, after completion of that independent, objective, non-partisan work, there remain further questions to be answered, then I think we really should be considering a committee," McGuinty said during a visit to Thunder Bay, Ont.

The two opposition parties are prepared to use their majority in the legislature to pass a resolution to set up the committee, but no date has been set yet.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bird's eye. View

▶ Bryan Hall of London, an employee with Guild Electric, works on a security camera Thursday morning at Dundas and Wellington streets.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

City replacing old security cameras

The city is in the process of replacing the 17 security cameras throughout downtown. Dave O'Brien, division manager of corporate security and emergency management, said the old cameras have reached their life expectancy. The replacement cost is about $45,000, O'Brien said.

News in brief

Polar bear dip on Saturday

VICTORIA PARK. The Sears Great Canadian Chill polar bear dip will be held Saturday at Victoria Park.

Registration is at noon, with the opening ceremony slated for 1:30 p.m.

Proceeds will support oncology research and treatment at Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre.

Vist TheChill.ca to register or make a donation. METRO

Last chance for Occupy items

VICTORIA PARK. The City of London has extended its deadline for Occupy London protesters to reclaim personal items removed from Victoria Park in November. The city says the new extension is the final one before items are disposed of.

People can email vicparkitems@london.ca by Monday at 5 p.m. with a description of the missing item(s), their name and contact information. METRO

Police find a pot grow-op

SMALL-SCALE. A London man faces drug charges after a police discovered a small-scale marijuana grow-op at 55-601 Grenfell Dr. on Wednesday afternoon.

London police and RCMP found 83 marijuana plants (valued at $83,000), 50 marijuana seeds ($250), five grams of hashish ($240), as well as $1,315 cash and $1,000 worth of marijuana grow equipment.

Kyle Berg, 26, has been charged. METRO

Man charged in luring probe

ONLINE. The London police cyber crime unit have charged a 24-year-old London man after an Internet luring investigation that began earlier in February.

Steven Lussier faces one count of luring. The investigation continues. METRO

30 years for women's centre

BREAKFAST. The London Abused Women's Centre will mark its 30th anniversary and International Women's Day with a sold-out breakfast and auction Friday.

The fundraiser will feature an address from youth-culture expert Michelle Dagnino, who will speak about ways young women work through self-esteem issues in today's pop culture. METRO

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Menu proposal doesn't add up, restaurateurs

Displaying nutritional data would be expensive, unsustainable, say opponents ◗ Group calls lack of information a 'disservice' to diners

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Sinath Tuy, a line cook at Abruzzi restaurant (119 King St.), plates a panini during the Thursday lunch rush. With orders made from scratch, putting nutritional information on menus is unrealistic, the restaurant's executive chef says.

Several restaurant owners are crying foul over a proposal that would force them to put nutritional information on their menus.

The issue, more or less, boils down to piling one more meatball on a heaping plate of government regulations the restaurant industry has been served in recent years, some said.

"Restaurants have been pushed to the max for all kinds of things," said Andy Kotsovos, owner of Smoke-N-Bones (855 Wellington Rd.).

New health rules, smoke-free laws, workplace-safety requirements and minimum-wage increases in the midst of a sour economy are just a few examples, Kotsovos said.

"If you were to take every single requirement that's been passed down over the years … at which point are we becoming unfriendly to business?" he said. "We're past that tipping point."

The Centre for Science in the Public Interest — an Ottawa-based advocacy group — brought the subject to the forefront this week in a report analyzing the impact restaurants have on health. The group is calling for all levels of government to step in and make eateries provide dietary details of their dishes front and centre.

The call comes as the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association reports more restaurant operators expect sales to slow in the next six months. Fifty-eight per cent of those who responded to an association survey cited a weak economy as the main cause.

All the government regulations Kostovos mentioned have cut into the bottom line, he and other local restaurant owners said. The same would be true with the nutritional information bit, they said.

"It seems like every time we make a stride (forward), we're getting handcuffed with something else."
BOB MCFADDEN, OWNER OF CRAVE RESTAURANT (1737 RICHMOND ST.)

"It would be tough for a restaurant to maintain, especially for someone our size.… It's not cheap to get everything analyzed," said Bob McFadden, owner of Crave (1737 Richmond St.).

"It's one of those things (where) I understand (the benefit), but we're trying to make a living as well."

Money aside, other chefs say there's no way to ensure the nutritional facts advertised on menus are accurate.

Metro asked people whether having nutritional information on menus would affect where they chose to eat. Here's what some of them said. ● METRO

"We're in a really health-oriented, health-conscious culture right now.… I'm glad to see that a lot more restaurants are offering healthier eating options and I think the more information that we can have — I think that's a benefit to us in what we're choosing."
ANDREW TRIBE, 24, OF LONDON

"I'm not a guy who's concerned about calories.… I'd just go about my business."
MICAH RICHARDSON, 21, OF LONDON

"I think you know when you go to a restaurant there's going to more fat (and) more salt. It's about pleasure."
SYLVIA CURTIS-NORCROSS, 45, OF LONDON

"It would affect me because I'm trying to be more healthy and eat … (healthier) food items and such. Having that information would help me make better choices."
VALERIE NGUYEN, 34, OF LONDON

Domi adjusts to bigger OHL pond

MIKE ARSENAULT
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA

The transition from midget to junior hockey is a leap often fraught with difficulty; players go from being big fish in small ponds of their peers to lakes teeming with 19-year-old men.

Even a top talent like Max Domi has experienced some hard times this season.

"Everyone says you'll go through adversity, but you don't really believe it until you experience it," the 17-year-old said. "Experiencing that a little bit after Christmas was something I had to deal with. It was a big change for sure."

Most rookies would love to mimic the inaugural season Domi has put together thus far. With 20 goals and 24 assists in 54 games, the Toronto native is tied for second in OHL rookie scoring.

"My goal at the start of the year was to be on a winning team — if it takes 10 points or 40 points," Domi said.

The sheer length of the season is one aspect that has been a big transition.

"It's a grind on the body," Domi said. "But having the support we have here is great. The trainers and the medical staff help maintain the body you have at the start of the year to have an edge going into playoffs."

▶ Max Domi

There is more autonomy in junior hockey, as opposed to midget, but the Knights' coaching staff is still there to provide a blueprint.

But who does Domi listen to more, the coaching staff or his former NHL enforcer father, Tie?

"Definitely the coaching staff," he said with a laugh.

Busy weekend

The Knights have three games this weekend: Friday at home against Oshawa at 7 p.m., Saturday at home versus Ottawa at 7 p.m., and in Oshawa on Sunday at 2:05 p.m.

FIRST-DEGREE MURDER

Stafford trial jury selected

A jury of nine women and three men has been selected to try the case of a man accused of killing an eight-year-old girl.

Michael Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping in the death of Victoria Stafford.

Tori disappeared while on her way home from school in Woodstock on April 8, 2009, and her body was found three months later.

Terri-Lynne McClintic, now 21, has already been convicted of first-degree murder in the girl's death.

The Crown is set to open its case in London on Monday.

The trial is expected to last between two and a half and three months.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

February one of the warmest

It wasn't the warmest February on record in London, but it was close.

Usually we get 38 centimetres of snow in February, but last month we had 27. The temperature was also 4.3 C warmer than normal last month, averaging -1.1 C.

The overnight temperature was 6 C warmer than normal and it was never colder than -11.

The forecast for the coming days shows more unseasonable temperatures. We're expecting a high of 11 C Friday.
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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Full-throttle mystery

Derailed VIA train had been doing almost 108 km/h
Switch under investigation requires slowing to 24 km/h

A passenger train that derailed while switching tracks — killing three engineers and injuring 45 passengers — was travelling at almost 108 km/h when it derailed west of Toronto on Sunday, says The Transportation Safety Board.

The speed limit while changing tracks at that particular switch is 24 kilometres.

"While we know the excess speed caused the derailment, this is not the end of the investigation," lead investigator Tom Griffith said Thursday. "It's only the beginning.

"We need to figure out why. We need to understand the environment in which the crew was operating and why they made the decisions they did."

Griffith said the train's black box also shows the brakes were not applied before the crash.

When asked if track signals to alert the crew were working, Griffith replied: "Were the signals 100 per cent? We don't know that right now."

Still, Griffith said there's no indication the signals were malfunctioning, adding he doesn't know why the brakes weren't applied, or why the speed was as high as it was.

Two of the engineers, Peter Snarr, 52, and Ken Simmonds, 56, both of Toronto, were experienced drivers, each with more than 30 years in the industry. A trainee, Patrick Robinson, 40, of Cornwall, Ont., joined them in the cab to observe. Although Robinson was new to passenger trains, he had 20 years experience with freight.

"We had three experienced people at the front of that train. Why were they doing that? That's what we have to find out."
TOM GRIFFITH, LEAD INVESTIGATOR

The switch involved requires the train to slow to 24 kilometres instead of the usual 72 kilometres. Still, he added, the signal indication would have been yellow, telling the engineers that they had to reduce the speed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

School. Protest

▶ A demonstrator impersonates Quebec Premier Jean Charest blocking his ears and refusing to listen in Quebec City yesterday.

FRANCIS VACHON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students take a stand on high fees

Thousands of students marched to the legislature to protest the government's plan to raise tuition fees to $3,800 from $2,200 over the next five years. Many carried signs while some boycotted classes.

Robocalls used in Ont. campaign: Minister

Some of the alleged dirty tricks used in the 2011 federal election campaign also surfaced during the Ontario election, the province's finance minister said Thursday.

A constituent in Windsor told Dwight Duncan she received a so-called robocall on Oct. 6 — election day in Ontario — saying her polling station had been moved.

The woman, a retired nun who did not want to be identified, told the minister via email that she quickly realized her poll was in her apartment building as usual.

"It's a clear indication that there were robocalls into Windsor," said Duncan. "And when the person is named Sister — I won't use her full name — I can't imagine she's not telling the truth."

Elections Canada is investigating reports that voters in Guelph received calls directing them to the wrong polling station during the federal campaign.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says allegations the Conservatives were behind the misleading and harassing calls are nothing but a smear campaign by the NDP and Liberals.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said he was told a constituent received a so-called robocall during the last provincial election.

In Ontario, Liberal and NDP politicians are reporting other incidents of misleading robocalls.

The Liberals, who were reduced to a minority government, say they were targeted in several ridings with robocalls suggesting they were going to set up a provincial gun registry as the federal registry was wound down.

There were also calls in several Liberal-held ridings suggesting the Ontario government was going to make it easier for a woman to get an abortion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tracing calls

The federal Conservatives deny involvement in the harassing phone calls made during the campaign last May.

- **Many received strange** calls that either misled them about polling stations or came at odd hours.
- **Elections Canada is** investigating the origin of calls made in Guelph.

Teen seriously hurt in car-surfing stunt

A car-surfing incident has left a 19-year-old Ontario man with life-threatening head injuries and the driver facing criminal charges.

Police say the man was standing on the hood of a Toyota as it drove down a street in Ajax, just east of Toronto, on Wednesday night.

Witnesses tell police the car braked, sending the man flying off the hood to the asphalt. He's in a trauma unit at a Toronto hospital.

The 19-year-old man police say was driving the car, Ali Malik, is charged with dangerous driving and dangerous driving causing bodily harm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scientists demand free speech

One of the world's leading scientific journals has criticized the federal government for policies that limit its scientists from speaking publicly about their research.

The journal, Nature, says in an editorial in this week's issue that it is time for the Canadian government to set its scientists free.

It notes that Canada and the United States have undergone role reversals in the past six years, with the U.S. adopting more open practices since the end of George W. Bush's presidency while Canada has been going in the opposite direction. The editorial says that the Harper government has tightened the media protocols applied to federal government scientists and employees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pricey ad campaign touts Tory budget

When Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced this week that March 29 will be federal budget day, the very first words out of his mouth heralded the coming "Jobs and Growth Budget."

If the phrase sounds vaguely familiar, it should.

Taxpayers are footing the bill for a $12.4-million government ad campaign with one common message: "creating jobs and growth." Complementary campaigns by Finance Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency ran throughout February and will continue through March, backstopping the Harper government's message.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘Black Madam’ arrested for bad butt injections

Padge Windslowe, 42, injected patients with toxic cocktails

A woman dubbed the “Black Madam” could face charges in the death of a London tourist who received illegal buttocks-enhancement injections last year in a Philadelphia hotel, police said.

Padge Victoria Windslowe, 42, was arrested Wednesday night as she prepared to host a “pumping party,” where she was to illegally inject clients, according to police.

She faces charges including aggravated assault and deceptive practices after one of her clients, an exotic dancer, suffered serious lung problems after an injection, Philadelphia police Lt. John Walker said. Windslowe was arraigned Thursday and was being held on $10 million bail, prosecutors said.

Windslowe is a person of interest in the death of the 20-year-old London woman who last year received injections at a hotel near Philadelphia International Airport, Walker said.

He said she will likely be charged with murder in that case if the medical examiner rules Windslowe’s injection caused the death of Claudia Aderotimi, who complained of chest pain and difficulty breathing following the procedure. No charges have been filed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Wale-of-a-good. Time

▶ Britain’s Prince Charles fires a paintball gun as he meets personnel from The Welsh Guards’ 1st Battalion during a visit to their barracks in Hounslow, England, to mark St. David’s Day, a national day of celebration in Wales, on Thursday.

STEVE PARSONS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prince Charles celebrates St. David’s Day

The first day of March was chosen in remembrance of the death of St. David, the patron saint of Wales. The date was declared a national day of celebration in the 18th century. Leeks are traditionally worn and/or eaten on the holiday.

Cellphone autocorrect prompts lockdown of Georgia schools

A cellphone’s auto-corrected text message prompted lockdowns at a middle and high school in the town of Oakwood, Ga., on Wednesday.

The text had originally read: “gunna be at west hall today.” But the phone’s autocorrect feature changed “gunna” to “gunman.” The change went unnoticed by the sender before the text was sent out.

Further adding to the confusion, the text was sent to the wrong number and the police were promptly called, according to the Gainsville Times. As police were investigating, the West Hall middle and high schools were closed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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SIX NEW MARKETS

Metro to add more cities

Metro Canada is expanding to six new cities in April, the newspaper announced Thursday.

Metro will launch a daily print edition in Saskatoon and Regina on April 2, along with a website and mobile news apps for iPhone, iPad and Android.

The company will also launch digital only in Hamilton, Kitchener and Windsor in Ontario, and in Victoria, B.C..

The launches mean Metro products, including the French-language paper in Montreal, will now be available in 15 of Canada's top 17 metropolitan areas.

"I am delighted to lead this remarkable opportunity as we partner with the communities of Saskatoon and Regina," said Steve Shrout, vice-president and group publisher for western Canada. "We look forward to offering a fresh, urban news perspective in Canada's most vibrant Prairie communities."

METRO

Market moment

PRICES AS OF P.M. THURSDAY

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+ 79.45 (12,723.46)	+ 0.37¢ (101.43¢ US)	+ $1.77 US ($108.84 US)	$2.46 US (- $.08 US)	$1,722.20 US (+ $10.90 US)

Google privacy changes

HO-GOOGLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Google's new privacy policy, as displayed on its website on Thursday.

▶ Company's new data-collection policy raises concerns ▶ May be in contravention of European data laws

Google's contentious new privacy policy officially took effect Thursday, despite some objections from Canada's privacy commissioner and others around the world.

The main concern being raised by most critics is how Google will now start saving user information collected from all its services in one place. For example, users who log into several different services — such as Google.ca, Gmail and YouTube — will have data about all their searches and clicks stored together.

Users can stop this data consolidation from happening by staying logged out when using the search engine or YouTube, or by having separate logins for each different site.

"You are going to be using the information in new ways — ways that may make some users uncomfortable."
JENNIFER STODDART, PRIVACY COMMISSIONER, IN A LETTER TO GOOGLE

In a letter to Google, Canada's privacy commissioner Jennifer Stoddart said users aren't being told enough about how to effectively opt out of Google's new plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AND IN OTHER TWITTER NEWS ...

THE METRO LIST

NEIL MORTON
METRO

1 **Gordon Lightfoot:** The iconic singer is releasing a new album, Massey Hall Moments – All Live, on April 17th from his concerts at the historic Toronto venue over the years. And tickets go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. at masseyhall.com for his gigs there this November. But if you could read my mind, you would've known that already.

2 **@AngiesRightLeg:** The Oscars were a dud, if not for Angelina Jolie's right leg. She displayed it prominently — and cheekily — in a black velvet dress with a thigh-high slit, and someone created a parody @AngiesRightLeg on Twitter that night, with tweets like "You have to admit I'm one hell of a leg." It now has more than 40,000 followers. No word on how Angie's left leg feels.

3 **Me to We leaders:** Founded by the brains behind Free The Children, Craig and Marc Kielburger, the Me to We organization — which encourages people to become involved in positive change to the world — has Take Action summer-camp academies in cities across Canada to teach leadership to youth. For more info, go to Metowe.com. Be the change.

4 **Rob Delaney:** This L.A. comedian wasn't really known until he became famous on Twitter (@robdelaney) with his (NSFW) comic tweets that have generated 335,000 followers, and now he's developing a show based on his Twitter account for Comedy Central called @robdelaney. "This is no $h*! My Dad Says" would be a good punchline on the show.

5 **Brian Burke's trade deadline:** The Leafs GM said, "I think the trade deadline is hard on players, but I think it's murder on players in Toronto," and his staff had even talked of instituting a 10-day trade freeze in the leadup to the deadline to relieve Leaf players of trade stress. I'm playing the world's smallest violin right now for you, Brian.

6 **Twitter dictates:** Sir Richard Branson on Twitter inventor Jack Dorsey in the new issue of Fast Company: "By inventing Twitter, Jack may have well brought down dictators in North Africa and the Middle East. That's not bad going for one guy." Absolutely.

7 **NASCAR driver tweets:** When Brad Keselowski was delayed with other cars during a Daytona 500 race this week, he tweeted via @keselowski from inside his car while he waited for the race to resume. And he tweeted again after a crash late in the race. He may not have won Daytona, but he tripled his number of followers, going from 65K to 200K.

8 **Ginger Ale on plane:** It might well be because people associate it with treating motion sickness (it settles the stomach), but have you ever noticed that basically 50 per cent of people on a plane order ginger ale? Outside a plane, you rarely see someone order it. Unless it's with rye. Tall observation to finish your week.

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).

Panel
Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should dolphins be declared legally human?

75% NO. THEY'RE STILL A STEP DOWN ON THE FOOD CHAIN

25% YES. THEY'RE INTELLIGENT CREATURES

Local tweets

- **@Jvonwahl11:** I appreciate all the strong, smart, and active women in #ldnont I <3 what you do and who you are.... #1love #bereal #livestrong #cdnpoli
- **@izzymmartin:** every time I get an email, my heart jumps a little cause I just want it to say "CONGRATULATIONS!" #fanshawe
- **@jcooke19:** I feel like #westernu tried to annoy me by changing my last final exam from the 21st to the 26th... #iwantsummer
- **@alexstrimas:** So excited for @SydneyStrimas to make an appearance in #LDNONT for the @HunterHayes show! #LOVECOUNTRY
- **@ZinniaTung:** This bus smells fresh of paint. Probably a new one. NEW bus! #thrill #uwo
- **@mcgreg_m:** Is it just me or is at always at least 10 degrees hotter in ucc centre spot / eating area. #westernu #westernproblems
- **@ksPossessed:** Adelaide is way more difficult to Frogger across than Wellington @ Commissioners. No medians on which to take cover #ldnont

Daily Zoom

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Culinary rebellion

A cook that plays with his food

Emile Picard samples some fresh maple syrup poured on snow at the Au Pieds de Cochon sugar shack Thursday in St-Benoit-de-Mirabel, Que., but don't tell the folks at this Ottawa winter festival about Martin Picard's latest creation.

If organizers forbade him from serving foie gras at last year's event because of a backlash by animal-rights activists that prompted him to cancel his appearance altogether, it's unlikely he'd be invited back to cook his new dish, named "Confederation Beaver" — that is, the buck-toothed national emblem stuffed with its own tail in a slow-cooked sauce of cream and pig's blood.

The second cookbook from the celebrity Montreal chef emphasizes a philosophy of cuisine that made him a hero to like-minded foodies. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Sugar Shack

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A lobster and smoked-meat omelette is one of the featured menu items at the Au Pieds de Cochon sugar shack.

A must-read

The cookbook has a section with lessons such as how to skin the fur from forest rodents and how to braise a beaver's tail until it's suitable for stuffing.

It also contains an illustrated history of sugar shacks filled with anecdotes, a guide to producing maple syrup, a story envisioning a post-apocalyptic world where all that's left is the sugar shack, and more. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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HANDOUT

▶ Kids will like the cute creatures in The Lorax.

One for the trees

The Lorax is light on plot, but still carries the strong pro-environmental overtones that made the Dr. Seuss story controversial

Synopsis

- In this adaptation of Dr. Seuss's most serious book, 12-year-old Ted (voice of Zac Efron), hopes to impress a girl (Taylor Swift) by giving her a tree. You see, she's never seen a real one because they live in Thneedville, a town where everything is fake. Even the trees are battery operated. His search for the tree leads him to the Once-ler (Ed Helms), the keeper of the last tree seed, who tells him about The Lorax (Danny DeVito) and why all the trees disappeared.
- **Ratings:**
  Richard: ⊕⊕½
  Mark: ⊕⊕⊕

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN

Richard: Mark, by and large, I liked The Lorax. It has some good characters, a strong central message for kids (particularly if they are interested in gardening) and some good laughs, but I left the theatre with the unshakeable feeling that It would have made a better short film. At 70 pages, the book doesn't quite offer up enough to fill out a feature length movie. It felt padded and not quite what the Dr. Seuss ordered. You?

MB: It wasn't the padding that bothered me as much as the hectoring tone of its pro-environmental, anti-entrepreneurial message. Finally, a film for the whole Socialist family! But the great eye candy and production numbers puts this kid flick in the plus column for me. Surely you liked the chorus of singing goldfish?

RC: The goldfish are part Andrews Sisters, part Greek Chorus and are the best thing in the movie. Loved them, and I liked much of the movie, but it just didn't feel Suessy or Seussian, or whatever the word would be, enough. Kids will like the cute creatures and the Lorax's giant orange handlebar 'stache, but for me it was too frenetic to be considered a faithful translation of a Seuss book.

MB: I never read the book so I had no expectations. I guess the obvious thing that's missing is Seuss' trademark rhyming dialogue. But I thought the movie was true to his visual style. And I was grateful that it was animated rather than those horrible live action Seuss adaptations using over-caffeinated comedians.

RC: Tell me about it. The best Seuss adaptation starred horror legend Boris Karloff! The Grinch Who Stole Christmas is the benchmark; it really brings the good doctor's characters to life. The Lorax, for all its charms, doesn't really feel like Dr. Seuss. It just doesn't feel green-eggs-and-hammy, or in non-Seuss terms, magical enough. Do you think kids will like it? Will they get the 'save the planet' message?

MB: I think it's aimed at kids four to nine. The message is so explicit it would be hard to miss. Parents can enjoy it for the visual imagery and pop culture jokes. But it doesn't have the depth of a Pixar film or classic Disney.

2 scene

Scene in brief

The Hunger Games author Suzanne Collins has given a big thumbs up to the upcoming film version of her million-selling dystopian novel. In a message that appeared Thursday on the Facebook page of The Hunger Games, Collins wrote that she was "really happy" with the movie. She praised director Gary Ross for remaining faithful to the book. The film will be released March 23.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Starbuck wins Golden Reel award for topping 2011 box office

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Kitsch keeps grounded

Actor Taylor Kitsch has a big year ahead with lead roles in two major films, including John Carter Why he tries to stay out of Hollywood

NED EHRBAR
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HANDOUT

▶ John Carter hits theatres next Friday.

Taylor Kitsch is well aware that a lot is riding on 2012 for him, career-wise. With lead roles in a pair of presumed blockbusters — this month's John Carter followed by Battleship in May — and Oliver Stone's Savages later this year, Kitsch is set to have his status in Hollywood solidified one way or the other. But he has other things on his mind — and a house to finish.

Your face basically is the marketing campaign for John Carter.
Yeah, yeah. I mean, that is something you never, ever get used to. I think it really is a once-in-a-lifetime kind of year for me coming up with these three films. It's insane. I think it's also a cool moment just to have within yourself, like it's really come full-circle for the most part through the struggle or whatever it was to get to this point.

Being the title character in a potential franchise, how is it to watch the marketing campaign at work and have no control over it?
I think you just nailed it, I don't have control over it. I mean, I just can't wear so many hats. I'm so on the inside — obviously, being him — but there's things, yeah, that I would love to have seen different. There's also things that they've done that have opened my eyes to it in a different way. So, I mean, I really don't have power on it at the end of the day...

There's a lot of you on display in this film. Did you ever wish that he'd discover a shirt or a pair of pants somewhere on Mars?
I loved the Civil War Carter, put it that way. (laughs) It's ... exposed, to say the least.

You've been trying to mix big and small films in your career. What's the strategy for that?
I can tell you. From day one, it's been keeping it simple, working with people that will empower and make you better at the end of the day and doing character-driven roles. That's not going to change. At this point, I just simply won't work. Because it's so much f---ing energy, and it's so much that you put into it, that if you're not waking up ready and willing to give everything you have for it, it just ain't worth it. So I'd rather just do a lot of other things if that's the case.

You've referred to living in Austin as "staying out of the s---" and avoiding the trappings of Hollywood. How do you manage that?
I think because of having a later start and knowing who I am and being grounded within myself, I don't need that to be validated. That's a big thing for me, and I truly am in it for just the work. Even at the beginning, people were like, "Maybe you should go to this party to meet this guy," and I never wanted to or never will get a job that way — to schmooze, to do this and that. I'll get it through my work. That's the way I am, and Austin is just an amazing escape. Every time I fly into there, I know I made the right decision.

And being Canadian doesn't hurt, right?
Yeah, my Canadian upbringing, man. My mom raised us three boys by herself. To say the least, we didn't have a lot of money. And it's the core things that truly matter at the end of the day anyways, so to be in front of all that stuff, you're able to laugh at it rather than need it. That's the difference. Less is always more with that.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Stag Shop's Turning 40, Celebrate Four Decades of Adult Fun

It's Stag Shop's big 4-0! The adult fun store is celebrating 40 years in business; 40 years of helping fantasies come true and enhancing the sexual well being in fun loving adults.

"We would like to thank our loyal customers and invite those who have yet to visit Stag Shop to come out and celebrate our 40 year anniversary; look for huge anniversary savings this coming March 5th and 6th", Paige Horea, Stag Shop Vice President.

For the past four decades Stag Shop, an independently owned and family operated adult and novelty shop, has grown from a small store into 22 locations in 16 different cities across South Western Ontario with international internet sales. This past February 2nd marked forty years and two generations of the Horea family's passion and determination as local business owners.

Since 1972 when Peter Horea and his wife Catherine opened the first Store at 7 King street in uptown Waterloo, Stag Shop has worked diligently to create a comfortable shopping atmosphere. Product knowledge and customer service has been and will continue to be a main focus in all stores. The company is always looking for the latest products that customers are asking for, and continually educating all staff on product knowledge to ensure customers are able to make informed healthy purchases. whether 40 years ago or 40 years from now, the commitment to customers and the community always has and always will remain.

Don't miss Stag Shop's Biggest Sales Event, March 5th & 6th!
Be sure to take advantage of Stag Shop's 40 year anniversary event at all locations. Also look for savings throughout March or shop online, any time, at **StagShop.com**

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STAG SHOP 40 SINCE 1972
StagShop.com

Project X
Genre: Comedy
Director: Nima Nourizadeh
Stars: Thomas Mann, Oliver Cooper, Jonathan Daniel Brown

Costa, Thomas and JB are three nerdy high school kids who, like every other high school kid in every other high school movie, decide to throw a house party that will get them noticed and attract otherwise unattainable ladies.

Thomas (Mann), whose parents are out of town for the weekend, wants to throw himself a birthday bash. He figures 50 people maximum should do the trick. But his foul-mouthed friend, Costa (Cooper, who makes Jonah Hill in Superbad look saintly), has other plans. He spreads the word and suddenly this cool-but-manageable party gets absolutely out of control.

Though you've probably heard all the jokes before in any number of the teen party movies that have come before it, you've never really seen a party like this one. Project X, after all, tells the story of "the most epic high school party ever."

REGAN REID

The next Tom Cruise?

Canadian actor is drawing comparisions to a young 'Top Gun'

Ongoing comparisons to a young Tom Cruise are "not the end of the world," says 24-year-old Tyler Johnston, whose uncanny similarities to the veteran action star have dogged him for years.

And so the B.C.-bred actor has prepared himself for the strong likelihood that analogies will only intensify with the debut of his Vancouver-set gambling thriller The Odds.

"People keep saying that and it's very flattering," Johnston said at the Toronto International Film Festival last September, when the feature premiered.

"I mean, he's a great actor who's had a great career and done some great movies and produced some great movies. So it's not the end of the world."

The resemblance emerges undeniably when the clean-cut performer steps in front of the camera, said writer-director Simon Davidson, seated next to Johnston for a round of interviews.

"I did not see Tom Cruise until I put him on film," insisted Davidson, who notes the similarities are subtle and hard to pin down.

"I can see it physically in his jaw and stuff but it's just the way he finds the angles, it's the way the camera loves him, it's the way he has presence, it's the eyes."

The Odds' action-tinged plot only serves to highlight any parallels that might be drawn — Johnston appears in nearly every frame as the cocky teen Desson, a charismatic ladies man who is inadvertently drawn into an underground gambling ring.

When his best friend turns up dead, the guilt-ridden and increasingly desperate teen mounts a one-man mission to expose what he believes is a murder cover-up. The young cast is bolstered by Julia Maxwell (Hot Tub Time Machine) as love interest Colleen and Calum Worthy (Daydream Nation) as classmate Barry. The Odds opens in Toronto on Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Iron Lady (PG) Fri 5 Sat 3 Sun 1 Mon 3 Tue 1 Wed 7 Thu 5
Monsieur Lazhar (PG) Fri 1-7 Sat-Sun 5-9 Mon 1-7 Tue 5-9 Wed 1-5 Thu 1-9

Rainbow Cinemas London
355 Wellington St., 519-434-3073
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:55-9:25
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:20-7-9:15
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:30-7:20-9:20
Project X (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:35-7:25-9:45
Safe House (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:25-7:05-9:40
The Vow (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:40-7:15-9:35
Wanderlust (STC) Fri-Wed 1:25-3:50-7:10-9:30 Thu 3:50-7:10-9:30 Thu 1

Western Film
Room 340, UCC Building
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG) Fri-Thu 7
The Grey (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Hugo (PG) Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15
Pee-wee's Big Adventure (STC) Fri 12

Wellington 8 Cinemas
983 Wellington Rd. S, 519-685-2529
Act of Valor (14A) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:45-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Gone (14A) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:15-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 7:20-10
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Sat-Sun 1
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) Fri 6:20-9 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:20-9 Mon-Thu 6:20-9
Project X (18A) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Safe House (14A) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15
The Vow (PG) Fri 6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:35
Wanderlust (STC) Fri 7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50

Cineplex Odeon Westmount & VIP Cinemas
755 Wonderland Road South, 519-474-2796
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) No Passes Fri 5:35-7:55-10:15 No Passes Sat 1-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:15 No Passes Sun 12:50-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05 No Passes Mon 6:55-9:15 No Passes Tue 4:35-6:55-9:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:55-9:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) No Passes Fri 5:05-7:25-9:45 No Passes Sat 12:30-2:45-5:05-7:25-9:45 No Passes Sun 12:20-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:35 No Passes Mon 7:15-9:35 No Passes Tue 4:55-7:15-9:35 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:15-9:35
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D (14A) Fri 4:30-7:40-10:20 Sat 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:20 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:10 Mon 7:30-10:10 Tue 4:20-7:30-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:10
Goon (18A) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:15 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15 Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10-10 Mon 7:10-10 Tue 4:10-7:10-10 Wed-Thu 7:10-10 Fri 4:45-7:45-10:25 Sat 2:4:45-7:45-10:25 Sun 2:4:45-7:30-10:10 Mon 7:30-10:10 Tue 4:45-7:30-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:10
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Sat 1:10 Sun 12:45
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 3:30-7:35-10 Sun 3:30-7:20-9:50 Mon 7:20-9:50 Tue 3:30-7:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:50
Safe House (14A) Fri 3:50-6:50-10:05 Sat 12:50-3:50-6:50-10:05 Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon 6:40-9:30 Tue 3:50-6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:30 Fri 4:15-7:15-9:55 Sat 1:30-4:15-7:15-9:55 Sun 1:30-4:15-7:9:40 Mon 7-9:40 Tue 4:15-7-9:40 Wed-Thu 7-9:40
The Vow (PG) Fri 4-7:15-9:55 Sat 1:15-4-7:15-9:55 Sun 1:15-4-7-9:45 Mon 7-9:45 Tue 4-7-9:45 Wed-Thu 7-9:45 Fri 3:45-6:45-9:25 Sat 1-3:45-6:45-9:25 Sun 1-3:45-6:30-9:10 Mon 6:30-9:10 Tue 3:45-6:30-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:10
Wanderlust (STC) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:30 Sat 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Sun 12:30-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon 6:30-9:20 Tue 3:40-6:30-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

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1680 Richmond St, 519-673-4125
Act of Valor (14A) Fri-Sat 2:05-4:40-7:45-10:30 Sun 1:50-4:25-7-9:50 Mon 1:55-4:40-7:15-9:55 Tue 1:45-4:25-7:05-10 Wed-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:05-9:55
Big Miracle (STC) Fri-Sun 1:20 Mon-Thu 2:10
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) No Passes Fri 1-3:15-5:25-7:50-10:10 No Passes Sat 11:15-11:45-1-3:15-5:25-7:50-10:10 No Passes Sun 1-3:15-5:25-7:50-10 No Passes Mon 3:30-5:40-7:50-10 No Passes Tue 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10:10 No Passes Wed 3:30-5:40-7:50-10 No Passes Thu 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45-5-7:15-9:30 No Passes Mon 3-5:10-7:15-9:30 No Passes Tue-Thu 12:55-3-5:10-7:15-9:30
Gone (14A) Fri 12:55-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:40 Sat 3:20-5:45-8:10-10:40 Sun 12:55-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:30 Mon 2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40 Tue 2:20-4:45-7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40
Goon (18A) Fri-Sat 1:25-3:45-6:05-8:25-10:50 Sun 1:25-4:15-7:20-9:40 Mon 2:10-4:30-6:50-9:35 Tue-Thu 1:25-3:55-6:40-9:35
I Am Bruce Lee (STC) Thu 7
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25 Mon-Thu 2:05
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:25
Jumanji (STC) Sat 11
The Metropolitan Opera: The Enchanted Island Encore (STC) Sat 12:55
Project X (18A) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:50 No Passes Sun 12:45-3:10-5:30-7:45-10:10 No Passes Mon 3:15-5:30-7:45-10 No Passes Tue 1-3:15-5:30-7:45-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 1-3:15-5:30-7:45-10
Safe House (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:35-10:15 Mon 2-4:35-7:05-9:50 Tue 1:40-4:10-6:50-9:45 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:10-6:50-9:35
The Secret World of Arrietty (G) Fri 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:55-10:20 Sat 12:30-5:20-7:55-10:20 Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:55-10:20 Mon 2-4:25-6:45-9:15 Tue-Thu 1:30-4:15-6:45-9:15
This Means War (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:05-5:30-8:10:25 Mon 2:15-4:55-7:25-9:50 Tue 2:15-4:55-7:25-10:15 Wed-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:25-9:50
The Vow (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-3-5:35-8:05-10:35 Sun 12:35-3-5:35-8:05-10:30 Mon 2:30-5-7:20-9:45 Tue 2:30-5-7:20-9:55 Wed 5-7:20-9:45 Thu 2:30-5-7:20-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Woman in Black (14A) Fri-Sat 4-8:20-10:45 Sun 4-6:55-9:35 Mon-Wed 4:30-6:55-9:20 Thu 4:30-9:20

Sunday school for grown-ups

GCB promises to provide 'something different' to viewers

IAN JOHNSTON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Though Christian groups are up in arms over the arrival of the new drama GCB, series star Annie Potts sees little to offend in the church-set drama.

"I don't think we're going to burn in hell for this," says Potts (Ghostbusters, Designing Women).

"On the contrary, I think the angels will be applauding that someone has found a new way to deliver a Sunday school lesson. It's a lot more palatable than someone giving you a finger-shaking."

GCB airs Sunday at 10 p.m. ET on CTV

Based loosely on the book Good Christian Bitches — changed to Good Christian Belles for TV — GCB follows former "mean girl" Amanda (Leslie Bibb) as she returns to her Dallas home after a very public scandal. Unfortunately, she finds her church-centered community anything but welcoming or forgiving, setting up a confrontation with her high school rival Carlene (Emmy-winning Kristin Chenoweth).

Potts plays Gigi, Amanda's overbearing, gun-toting mother. Gigi wants to reshape Amanda and her children in her own, hard-drinking, church-going image.

"She (Gigi) is a very straight forward, plain-spoken woman. Very much what you see is what you get. She's right out there," says Potts. "But she welcomes her beautiful daughter back with open arms, which — among other things — is the Christian thing to do."

The actress says she was attracted to the role by the opportunity to work again with writer/creator Robert Harling (Steel Magnolias).

"I saw the title, saw that Bobby had written it, and immediately said I think there might be something in there for me."

For Harling, who also wrote such women-centered movies as Soapdish and First Wives Club, GCB marks his first foray into television.

"I'm Christian myself," says Harling.

"And I thought it would be a fascinating arena to build a show around a church. And I think the network (ABC) has been very brave and supportive. They really wanted something different; something they'd never seen before. Which is like fuel to a writer.

"Even though it's set among some of the richest people in the world, I think it reflects society today in America. People will find a lot to identify with."

HANDOUT

▶ Annie Potts stars in GCB as a gun-toting mother to Leslie Bibb's character.

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Nothing into something

Amateur performers get crash course in theatre for Way Off Broadway

HANDOUT

▶ Bravo's Way Off Broadway debuts Friday.

Granted, the amateur performers who pour their heart and soul into a musical production of The Wizard of Oz on Bravo's Way Off Broadway are a little rough around the edges.

But that's to be expected from a group of theatre wannabes better known in their own circles as a dentist, high school teacher, real estate developer and health-care administrator.

At recent rehearsals for TV's newest reality-singing series, many of the would-be entertainers said the prospect of belting out show tunes for a live and televised audience is a dream come true.

"I'm actually thinking this just might be something I want to do (full-time)," gushed gregarious soccer mom Sandra McKinnon, who works for IBM in a Toronto suburb but has had a lifelong love of music.

"I'm actually thinking this just might be something I want to do (full-time)"
SANDRA MCKINNON

It's that kind of unbridled enthusiasm that show creators hope will draw everyday dreamers to Way Off Broadway. Over the course of eight weeks, novice crooners are whipped into shape and mount a stage production of The Wizard of Oz for a live theatre audience.

Their journey to the limelight is chronicled in 13 one-hour episodes starting Friday on Bravo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Live theatre tips

Acclaimed director, dancer and performance coach Sarina Condello, from Bravo!'s all-new original series Way Off Broadway, gives advice to Canadians on how to pull off a great live theatre performance

- **Tip #1** Acting is nothing more or less than playing. The idea is to humanize life so play and have fun with the role.
- **Tip #2** For live theatre, you must overact your part to some degree in order to produce any effect at all.
- **Tip #3** Take notice and pay attention. Always be aware of things happening around you so listen intently and react!
- **Tip #4** Always remember that you are showing a story, not telling it. Each movement, each breath, and each spoken line contribute to your performance.
- **Tip #5** Fall in love with the moment and trust the process 100 per cent and never give up.

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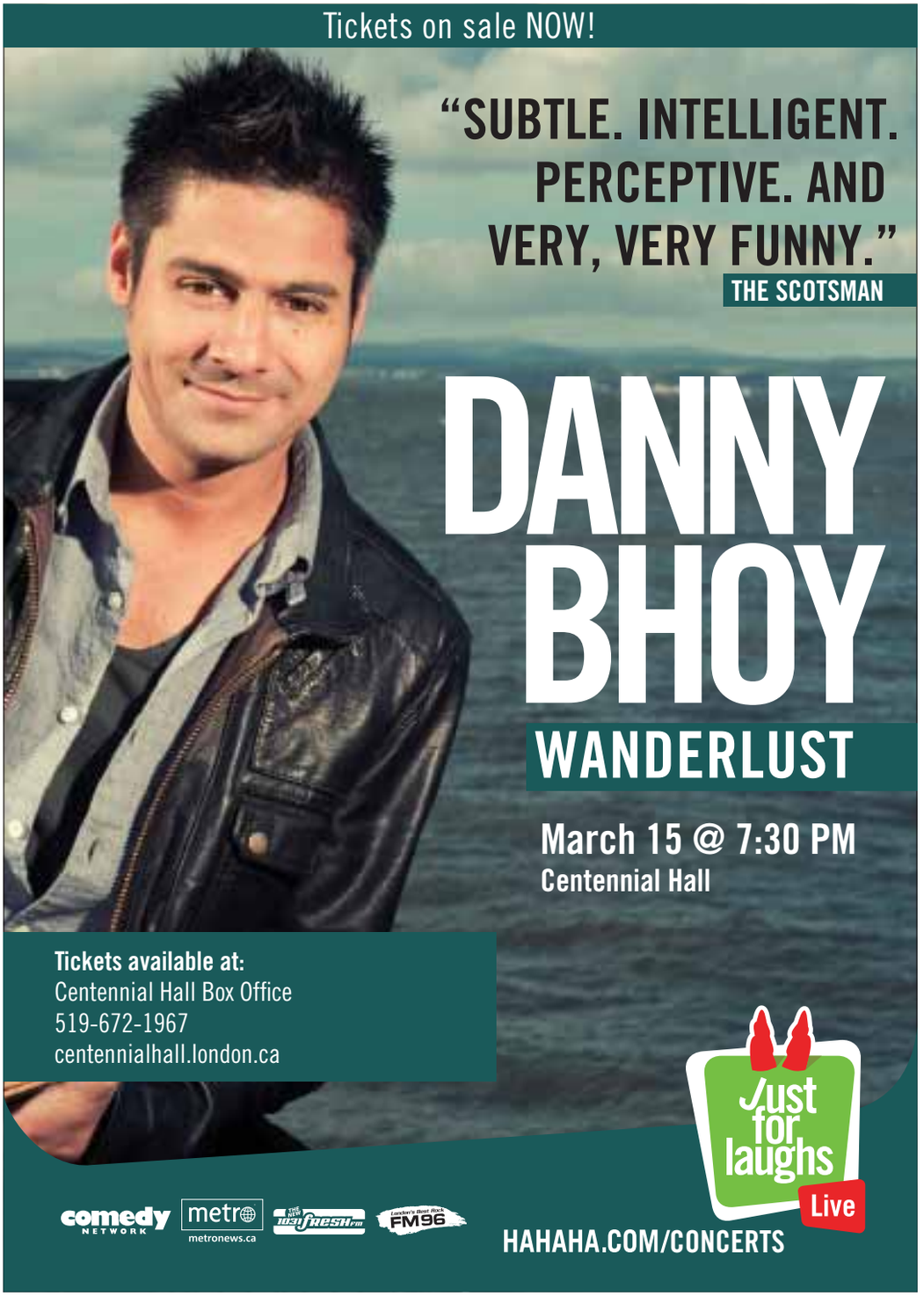

MUSIC RELEASES FOR SPRING

SOUND CHECK

ALAN CROSS
SCENE
@METRONEWS.CA

Now that spring is within sight, plans are well underway when it comes to some major releases that will be with us well into the fall and toward Christmas. And there are some big names on this list.

Bruce Springsteen and The E-Street Band/Wrecking Ball (Tuesday)

The Boss' 17th studio album is an angry affair, a protest against the things and the people that brought about The Great Recession on America. Springsteen says that the record has a lot in common with 1982's Nebraska.

Meat Loaf/Hell in a Handbasket (Mar. 13)

Yes, Mr. Aday is back, although fans know that this record was released in Australia back in the fall. Co-writers on the record include Dave Kurshner (Velvet Revolver) and Canada's Tom Cochrane.

GETTY IMAGES

Chris Brown/Fortune (Mar. 16)

Despite a heavy effort to rehabilitate his image after the Rihanna incident, things haven't been going all that well. What will the marketplace say when his fifth album comes out in a couple of weeks?

Adam Lambert/Trespassing (Mar. 20)

Second album from the American Idol dude just before he goes on the road as the new lead singer for Queen this summer.

Madonna/MDNA (Mar. 27)

It's hoping that Madge will give the industry a big boost with a world tour and this new album. However, Give Me All Your Luvin' has, shall we say, been something of a disappointment for her and Interscope, her new label. Was that a stumble out of the gate or the portent of something more dire?

Nicki Minaj/Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded (April 3):

One of Minaj's alter-egos, Roman Zolanski, returns with some new adventures. No, I didn't get the Grammy performance, either.

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Happy birthday indeed, Bieber

Seems like just yesterday he was a fresh-faced kid singing on YouTube

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Happy birthday indeed, Bieber.

When you're the most famous 18-year-old in the world, cake ain't cutting it. No, Justin Bieber had a much better Thursday than you did. Let's start with the gifts. On Wednesday, Bieber's manager stopped by The Ellen DeGeneres Show to surprise him with a Fisker Karma — that's an eco-friendly sports car for all of you Kia drivers — estimated to be worth at least $100,000.

As for himself, Bieber is looking to buy two L.A.-area mansions priced between six and eight million dollars, according to TMZ.

Yesterday, we can only assume that he drove his new car to scope out his potential new Hollywood pads — when he wasn't parachuting or hitting up his dinner party, that is.

Justin! The whole point of being 18 is that you don't yet need to buy things to make you happy.

Have fun, kid, but we hope you have some serious funds set aside for 28.

MONICA WEYMOUTH/ DOROTHY ROBINSON WILL RETURN TUESDAY

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Justin Bieber

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The cheesy side of food

These savoury Cheddar Shortbread Diamonds make elegant nibbles to enjoy with wine

DAIRYGOODNESS.CA

▶ This recipe makes about 56 diamonds.

Preparation:

1. In food processor, pulse red pepper until finely chopped. Add Canadian Old White Cheddar cheese, butter, flour, sugar, chili powder and salt. Pulse until dough starts to hold, adding water bit at a time until dough holds together when squeezed.

2. Turn out dough into bowl and knead lightly into a smooth dough. Shape into flat square. On sheet of parchment paper with a floured rolling pin, roll out to a 9-inch (23 cm) square, about 1/2-inch (1 cm) thick. Slide onto a baking sheet and refrigerate 20 mins or until cold.

3. Using knife, cut square into 8 equal strips. On diagonal, make seven cuts along each strip, about 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart, into 56 diamonds (there will be triangles at the ends of the strips – either press together into diamonds or bake as triangles). Lightly brush tops with egg white and sprinkle with coarse sea salt. Separate shortbread pieces on the parchment so they are at least 1/2 inch (1 cm) apart.

4. In preheated 350 F (180 C) oven, bake one sheet at a time, for 27 mins or until firm and just starting to turn golden around the edges. Let cool on pan 3 mins. then transfer to rack. Serve warm or let cool.

DAIRYGOODNESS.CA/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA)

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup (125 mL) coarsely chopped sweet red pepper
- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) shredded Canadian Old White Cheddar cheese (about 6 oz/ 175 g)
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) cold butter, cut into cubes
- 2 cups (500 mL) all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp (10 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tsp (5 mL) ancho chili powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) water (approx.)
- 1 egg white, beaten
- Coarse sea salt

Stretching meals

Some cheeses, such as stretch mozzarella, have unique melting and stretching abilities. Here are three ways to enjoy it.

1. Replace cheddar with stretch mozzarella in Mexican lasagna, burritos, quesadillas and enchiladas to put a new twist on fiesta favourites.

2. Sprinkle shredded stretch mozzarella on your favourite soup and enjoy the buttery strings of cheese with every spoonful.

3. Topping your burger with a slice of Mozzarellissima adds a melt-in-your-mouth quality, and enhances the flavour of burger toppings.

NEWS CANADA

Advocacy group pushes for calorie counts, sodium values on menus.

Love wine – inside & out

PETER ROCKWELL
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I'm glad you can't tell a wine by its label. If you could, there'd be an awful lot of boring juice on the shelves.

You can blame the trend in ho-hum bottle bling on the critter label backlash a few years back. Once customers got sick of cartoon animals on their wine bottles, marketers couldn't sink the ark fast enough and set sail on the good ship mundane.

Argentina and South Africa are major offenders. Their sections look like wallpaper with one cookie cutter label after another.

I have a place in my heart for any winery that shows as much inventiveness outside the bottle as it does in. The People's 2010 Pinot Noir ($16.95 - $19.99) from New Zealand wins on both fronts.

Designed by kiwi artist Martin Poppelwell, its label font has an urban vibe reminiscent of a bistro's chalkboard wine list.

The liquid has a hip, bright flavour that oozes plump strawberry and subtle tannins, which pairs well with roast poultry and lighter meat dishes. **PRICES RFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Enjoy this uniquely Canadian pizza that employs cheese curds, typically used in poutine

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This pizza serves six to eight people.

Preparation:

1. In saucepan, set over medium heat, simmer red pepper in chili sauce and water 5 mins. or until tender. Scrape into a small food chopper or blender and puree until smooth; set aside.

2. In nonstick skillet cook beef until no longer pink. Add the zucchini, eggplant, mushrooms and onion to beef and cook for about 5 mins. or until tender. Stir in red pepper sauce, tomato paste and basil until combined; set aside.

3. On work surface, sprinkle some cornmeal, then using a rolling pin, roll out pizza dough. Dough must be large enough to cover bottom and sides of ovenproof skillet roughly 30 cm (12 inches) in diameter and 2.5 cm (1 inch) deep. Place dough in skillet and fill with beef-vegetable mixture.

4. Top with cheese curds, fold in any dough exceeding skillet edge. Place skillet in centre of 200 C (400 F) oven and bake for 30 minutes or until dough is golden. Sprinkle with Parmesan and bake for another 5 mins.

DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (EMILYIRCHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients:

- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chili sauce
- 500 g (1 lb) lean ground beef
- 250 ml (1 cup) each diced zucchini, eggplant and mushrooms
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) diced red onion
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) tomato paste
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) minced fresh basil
- 500 g (1 lb) homemade or store-bought pizza dough
- Cornmeal
- 175 g (6 oz) fresh cheese curds
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) Parmesan

All is not lost in Leafs Land

THE HOCKEY NEWS

ADAM PROTEAU
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA

One thing has always been true in Toronto: The Maple Leafs' highs are never quite as high as the reality of the situation, nor are the lows ever quite so low. This is something to bear in mind these days, as the Buds spiral toward missing the playoffs for the seventh straight season and fans call for the heads of both coach Ron Wilson and general manager Brian Burke.

Are things really so dire in Leafs Land? Not at all.

For starters, look at Toronto's collection of prospects. When Burke took the reins more than three years ago, the franchise's prospect cupboard was virtually empty. Now, they've got Nazem Kadri, Matt Frattin, Joe Colborne, Korbinian Holzer and others in the system. If even a couple of them develop into consistent NHLers, the franchise will benefit in a way it never did under former GM John Ferguson.

It would have been easy for Burke to trade away some of that accumulated depth at the trade deadline for a quick fix that might have gotten the team into the post-season, but there's just as good a chance one of them would come back to haunt the Leafs, the way former Toronto prospect Tuukka Rask does when he's performing spectacularly in the Boston Bruins net.

And if people are going to fixate on Toronto's problems, it's only fair to talk about what has gone right with the NHL team this year. When they've received above-average goaltending from James Reimer and Jonas Gustavsson, the Maple Leafs have been very competitive and secured victories over league powerhouses such as the New York Rangers or Pittsburgh Penguins. Prior to their current slump, there was a resiliency to them that simply wasn't there in previous seasons.

And let's look at the pieces that are a key part of the roster: There's Jake Gardiner, the most exciting blue-line prospect in Toronto for at least a generation of Leafs fans. And of course there's Phil Kessel, Mikhail Grabovski and Joffrey Lupul, all of whom should be crucial to the franchise's success for a very long time.

As I've argued numerous times in this space, during times like this, it's easy for Leafs fans and certain media members to run around as if their hair is ablaze. But no quick fix is going to make this team into a long-term Stanley Cup contender.

The sooner all you "Fire Wilson" chanters recognize that, the better.

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Leafs players, from left, Dion Phaneuf, Jonas Gustavsson, Jake Gardiner and John-Michael Liles during Toronto's Wednesday night loss in Chicago.

Late arrival

Had things worked out a bit differently, winger Carter Ashton would have been a Maple Leaf long before centre Joe Colborne.

- According to former Lightning GM Brian Lawton in an article written for Sportsnet.ca, the Leafs offered to send defenceman Tomas Kaberle to Tampa before the 2009-2010 season trade deadline in exchange for Ashton and the team's 2010 first pick, which turned out to be Brett Connolly.
- Instead, the Leafs traded Kaberle to Boston during last season's trade deadline for Colborne, the six-foot-five centre chosen by the Bruins in the first round (18th overall) in the 2008 draft.
- On Monday, Ashton, 20, learned that he had been traded to the Leafs by Tampa Bay, the team that drafted him as their first pick (29th overall) in 2009. In the trade, the Lightning obtained defenceman Keith Aulie, who is now playing with the big club in Tampa Bay.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

4 sports

Quoted

"The significance of the hit, Kris being on the ice. That was the first thing I thought of (a concussion)."

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS COACH DAN BYLSMA ON DEFENCEMAN KRIS LETANG, ABOVE, WHO MAY BE OUT WITH A CONCUSSION FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS SEASON. LETANG, WHO WAS HIT BY DALLAS' VERNON FIDDLER ON WEDNESDAY, HAS CONCUSSION-LIKE SYMPTOMS, ACCORDING BYLSMA, AND WILL NOT PLAY SATURDAY AT COLORADO.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Blue Jays pitcher Dustin McGowan at live batting practice at spring training on Tuesday.

Will patience pay off for Jays?

Toronto stuck with McGowan for years as he battled injuries, and now pitcher is ready to return the favour

Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Dustin McGowan is grateful the organization stuck with him during his long road back from injuries.

He's ready to prove that he's worth the wait.

For the first time since 2008, McGowan's off-season routine was not overloaded with shoulder rehabilitation. He finally feels fresh again and will get a chance this spring to show he belongs in Toronto's starting rotation.

"Any other organization I might have been done, I might have been looking for a new team," McGowan said Thursday. "But (GM) Alex (Anthopoulos) stuck with me and I'm glad the (organization) did. Now it's my turn to return the favour to them and I hope I do that."

The six-foot-three, 235-pound right-hander has shown flashes of brilliance since making his big-league debut in 2005.

After an impressive 12-10 campaign in 2007, McGowan underwent surgery the following year to repair fraying of the labrum in his right shoulder. He underwent another procedure two years later to repair a torn right rotator cuff.

"I know the numbers don't look great (from 2011) but I thought the stuff was outstanding. I'm probably as excited about him as I am about any of our starters."

JAYS GM ALEX ANTHOPOULOS ON DUSTIN MCGOWAN, WHO WAS 0-2 WITH A 6.43 EARNED-RUN AVERAGE LAST SEASON

Despite the physical and mental drain, McGowan never lost sight of his goal of a big-league return and stuck it out over a seemingly endless run of rehab.

"It's kind of like Groundhog Day," McGowan said. "It seems like you do the same thing every single day. The exercises you have to do are tedious little things but I had to do them.

"That's pretty much what every day consisted of."

His hard work paid off last September when he made his first major-league appearance in over three years. It was a key building block for the 29-year-old Savannah, Ga., native, who has been in great spirits during opening week of camp at the team's spring training facility in Dunedin, Fla. McGowan said he is refreshed and "fully charged" after a normal off-season.

It wasn't easy to maintain focus when he was out of action. McGowan was determined to persevere even when questions about the future crept into his mind.

"There were some times you have thoughts of, 'Am I ever going to pitch again?'" he said. "I'd be lying if I said I didn't have those thoughts.

"It was those days that I went out and threw and my arm felt really good and I said, 'I know it's there.' So I needed to work harder to get it to be a consistent thing." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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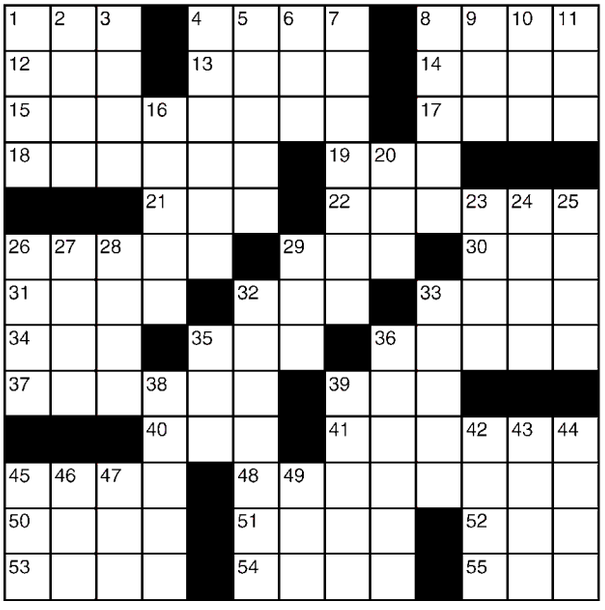
4 drawer dresser painted gray good condition delivery possible asking $25 obo 226-663-9223	Apartment size organ with double keyboard. Paino & other sound features Including storage bench, Has head-phone outlet $260 519-657-8285	Colored TV JVC 27" Picture in Picture has a remote Excellent Condition $25 (519)657-4897	Exercise bike New Condition, Electronic Monitor, All Adjustments $75.00 519-474-3475	Pentium 4 Computer Windows XP, MS Office , Internet ready $85.00 (519)686-7658	**Supersize Entertainment Unit** 81w x 46h x 24.5d, holds 40" TV. Sliding Glass Doors 6 Shelves & 2 Drawers Like new. $100 **519-701-0958**
9 Pc Bdrm Suite - Black - Queen - mattress/boxspring like new - $400.00 519-670-5310	**Black Wood Burning Stove**- fits 2 ft' logs with Air Fan. Asking $250 firm Robert @ 226-663-3561	**Complete Weight Set Bars, Benches, Uprights, & End Plates Asking $300 519-471-0618**	Hospital Bed (no mattress) Good Condition. on wheels, Can Deliver Asking $100 (519)667-1783	Pier 1 Glass Top Wrought Iron Top Dinette Table With Chairs $150 (519)657-8285	TV 32" Sony Flat screen Excellent condition $35.00 (519)641-8077
Advertising Display Pole 9' with base and brackets, mint condition, asking $90.00 Please call **(519)473-1091**	**Black Wood Burning Stove**- fits 2 ft' logs with Air Fan. Asking $250 firm Robert @ 226-663-3561	**DRYER- WHITE** SEARS KENMORE Good working condition! $75.00 519-439-8814	LCD Flat Screen Computer Monitor Key Board and Mouse $55.00 (519)686-7658	Sectional Sofa Bed Oatmeal in Color. Sears Value of $2400 10 mths old Selling for $950 519-476-1552	Your Free Ad Here ! Call: 1-800-527-6767 Size 1.535" X .542", Limit 1/day, 2/wk

Crossword



Across

1 Matterhorn, for one
4 Dull sound of impact
8 Equipment
12 Debtor's letters
13 Leak out slowly
14 Advantage
15 Not imported
17 Crucifix
18 Meager
19 Resistance measure
21 Solidify
22 Countrified
26 Deluge
29 Oktoberfest vessel
30 Eventual aves
31 Carry on
32 Predicament
33 Get ready quickly?
34 Praise in verse
35 Festive
36 React to reveille
37 Occult
39 Exist
40 Wapiti
41 Mr. pluralized
45 Entreaty
48 Doubter of a sort
50 Towel designation
51 Dirt
52 Commotion
53 Challenge
54 Old portico
55 Evergreen type

Down

1 Lends a hand
2 Aerobatic maneuver
3 Wild cat
4 Threw
5 "Monopoly" building
6 9mm submachine gun
7 Propriety
8 Bacteria
9 Maestro de Waart
10 Past
11 Roulette bet
16 Cereal disease
20 Embrace
23 Actress Spelling
24 Currier's partner
25 Superhero costume feature
26 Gift-tag word
27 "— and the Tramp"
28 Individuals
29 Has potential
32 Fool
33 Fourth estate
35 Grissom of "CSI"
36 Colored part of the iris
38 Make fun of
39 Prenatal exam, for short
42 Remain
43 Take the bus
44 Garbage barge
45 Third degree?
46 Meadow
47 Blunder
49 "— milk?"

Yeterday's answer

E	T	A	S		S	W	A	B		O	B	I
R	I	L	E		P	O	S	E		N	O	D
A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S		E	L	L
S	T	A	G	E	Y			E	A	G	L	E
			O	N		S	A	T	Y	R		
N	E	R	D		P	E	R		E	O	N	S
E	N	E			O	R	E			S	A	P
O	D	D	S		O	V	A		A	S	H	Y
		C	A	C	H	E		A	S			
M	A	R	L	A			E	N	T	R	A	P
U	F	O		B	E	T	S	Y	R	O	S	S
M	R	S		L	E	I	S		A	U	K	S
S	O	S		E	L	M	O		L	E	S	T

Sudoku

5			2		9			6
	9		8		3		1	
		4				2		
		6	9		4	3		
7								8
		8	3		6	1		
		7				9		
	4		7		8		5	
8			1		2			4

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

8	1	5	7	6	2	4	3	9
9	2	6	4	8	3	1	7	5
4	3	7	5	1	9	8	2	6
6	5	3	2	4	1	7	9	8
1	9	4	6	7	8	3	5	2
7	8	2	9	3	5	6	1	4
2	6	8	1	5	7	9	4	3
3	7	9	8	2	4	5	6	1
5	4	1	3	9	6	2	8	7

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

The Bus Driver
I am so happy when I am with you. I hope it never stops. I hope you stay for a very long time. I hope our lives continue together. xoxoxoxoxox. **CRAZY NUBBS**

BlueLion, Hope you find somewhere in your heart to forgive me, I know our love can battle anything that comes our way. This a grey cloud that will soon be a beautiful sunshine. I am not giving up on us and neither will I give up on our love. **PURPLEPANDA**

My handsome hero
It hurts so much that you are not with me my handsome knight and hero, I keep you in my thoughts and dreams every night, please dont stay away forever, I will wait forever as I promised. **YOUR LADY**

you, And i will never give up on our love,,,ever! **YOUR LADY**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
As mind planet Mercury moves into your sign, you must set your sights higher. Aim for the top.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
You need to branch out on your own and do things that benefit you, not other people. That might sound a bit selfish but it's OK.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
You may be a bit quiet today. But with Mercury moving into the friendship area of your chart, you won't be withdrawn for long.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
Some comments that come your way today will be unflattering but there is no point reacting to them.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
Your life is complicated enough as it is without taking on even more responsibilities. You should be looking for ways to do less.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Hold out for what you are worth, even if those who control the purse strings warn that you risk ending up with nothing.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
What looks like a setback early in the day will turn out to be just what you need later in the day.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Some things are important and some things are not. Leave the trivial stuff for trivial people.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Focus on what you enjoy doing today, even if loved ones keep telling you it isn't productive.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You may be tempted to take some kind of gamble today, most likely because someone you are close to emotionally expects it of you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Keep things simple over the next 24 hours and ignore the nagging thought you are not using your time and energy as wisely.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
There are wonderful opportunities coming your way. Luck is what you make of it. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

DAVID GOLDMAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES KRUPA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

NEED A RIDE?
Read metrodrive every Wednesday.

LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Toronto, Canada – The 2012 Chevrolet Cruze is passing through Chinatown on its second world tour. Getting around is always a breeze with best-in-class highway fuel efficiency and best-in-class safety.

1. Part of the licence plate number removed 2. Removed half of traffic line next to the 2012 Chevrolet Cruze 3. Removed middle Chinese character from red sign 4. Removed front side reflector from 2012 Chevrolet Cruze 5. Removed price sign on barrel 6. Changed store address from 270 to 278 7. Shirt colour changed from green to red 8. Balloon animal added to the bunch 9. Footstools added in front of right-hand barrel 10. Hanging décor added above rear of 2012 Chevrolet Cruze

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Rexall™ Pharma Plus®
A pharmacy first.

March 2-8, over
400 BONUS AIR MILES reward miles
available to be earned on select products.††

RONA

March 2-4, earn
2x the AIR MILES reward miles
on any purchase of $40 or more.†††

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE

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10 BONUS AIR MILES reward miles
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†Bonus AIR MILES reward miles available on selected products from February 26 – March 31, 2012 at the LCBO. While quantities last. Offer subject to change without notice. See store for details. ††Offer subject to change without notice. AIR MILES Base and Bonus offers exclude prescriptions, products containing codeine, postal service, stamps, Gift Card Express, Rexall Pharma Plus Gift Cards, lottery, transit tickets and taxes. Offer valid at Participating Rexall™ and Rexall™ Pharma Plus locations only in the province of Ontario, excluding the region of Thunder Bay and Western Provinces. Rexall™ is a registered trademark of Rexall Brands Corp, and Pharma Plus® is a registered trademark of Pharma Plus Drugmarts Ltd., members of the Katz Group of Companies. †††Excluding taxes and the purchase of gift cards. Offer valid from March 2-4, 2012 at participating RONA stores. Cannot be combined with any other offer, with the exception of Bonus offers on products. Bonus offer coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Bonus offer applies to the total base reward miles earned on qualifying purchase amount. Some conditions apply. Details in store. ‡Bonus AIR MILES offer is valid March 2-4, 2012 at all Ontario locations when you present your Collector Card at the time of purchase. Offer not valid on online purchases. No coupon required. Valid for a minimum purchase of $50 in a single transaction, net of refunds and exclusive of taxes, discounts, and gift card purchases. Offer cannot be combined with any other AIR MILES Bonus offer. This is an exclusive offer and is non-transferable. The Children's Place reserves the right to change or cancel the offer at any time. ®™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. Sponsor trademarks are owned by the respective Sponsor or authorized for their use in Canada.